A LARGE CROWD gathered at Liberty Cemetery last Tuesday evening for a ceremony dedicating a plaque which marks the site of Liberty Baptist Church's first building. Walter Hancock, (left) and Dr. Daniel Scott, pastor of Liberty, preside over the dedication. The ceremony was one of several marking the 150th anniversary of the forming of Liberty Baptist Church in Appomattox County. (Photo by Bill Sherred)

Bible & Daily Living

The power of the word

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
THE POWER OF THE WORD
Lesson for August 19, 1984
Bible Study Passages: II Kings 22:1, 10-15; 23:2-3
INTRODUCTION

The Word of God is powerful. It has influenced individuals and nations to change the course of their life. When the Word of God takes hold of a human life, a church or a nation, dramatic things begin to happen.

We have each witnessed this strange power when the Word of God became very personal to us. Our lives have probably never been the same since our encounter with the Word of God.

The psalmist appreciated the power of the Word, for he makes numerous references to the Lord's message. In Psalm 119 we find these written words: O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day. . . How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! . . Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. (119:97, 103, 104 KJV)

God's word has power when it is spoken or read in silence. His spirit continually moves to call people and nations to follow him in righteous living. This week's lesson looks at how a rediscovery of God's Word moved the King of Judah to make sweeping religious reforms.

A REDISCOVERED TREASURE [II Kings 22:1-13]

Following the evil reigns of Manasseh and Amon, Judah experienced one last revival of their religious heritage. Amon was assassinated and his young son was proclaimed king. Josiah was only eight years old when he assumed his leadership role. He had a deep appreciation for the Temple, which his grandfather Manasseh had desecrated with pagan altars. It had obviously become unrecognizable as the Temple of Yahweh. Josiah took steps to repair and restore this symbol of religious faith and unity.

During the restoration a book was discovered that proved to be at least a part of the Book of Deuteronomy.

CONCERN OVER GOD'S JUDGMENT [II Kings 22:15-16]

Josiah immediately took steps to bring this rediscovered book to the attention of the people. He was greatly concerned that his predecessors had neglected to follow the words of this book.

Josiah's messengers consulted a prophetess named Huldah. She spoke affirmatively of the book and encouraged Josiah and the people of Judah to follow the commandments of the book. It is moving to read that when Josiah read the contents of the book he repented for himself and for the people of Judah. It pained him to see how God's commandments had been broken and neglected. Because of his spirit of repentance, Josiah was granted thirty one years of peaceful reign over Judah.

THE RECORD SPEAKS [II Kings 23:2-3]

Josiah called the people to task. He set out to reform and rebuild the Temple and the nation. He made a covenant to walk with the Lord and to follow his commandments. At the close of his speech in the Temple, the people who were present stood with him and dedicated themselves to Josiah's covenant. In other words, they reaffirmed their role in history as a people of the book.

We as Christians also claim to be a "people of the book." Christ invites us to live out our lives according to the Word of God. Reflect on the following questions:

1. What does it mean to you to be a "people of the book?"
2. How has the Word of God changed your life?

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP).

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LCBC planning revival

Liberty Chapel Baptist Church will hold revival services Aug. 19-23 at 7:30 p.m. nightly.

The Rev. Elton McDowell will be guest minister. Special music will be provided each night, under the direction of Pastor Jimmy Williams.

Mrs. Betty Leftwich and Mrs. Bill Reynolds will perform, and several choirs from the area have been invited to participate in the revival, as well.

The children's choir will also perform during the week.

A nursery will be provided.

Liberty Chapel Baptist Church is one of the oldest churches in the county. The public is invited to come and enjoy fellowship with family and friends.

Youth revival set

A youth revival service, sponsored by the East Campbell Subdistrict, will be held at Salem United Methodist Church on Sunday, Aug. 19, 1984.

Services will begin at 7 p.m., with the Rev. Keith Almond officiating.

Special music will be presented by the Evergreen Methodist Choir.

The public is invited to attend an evening full of Christian love and fellowship.

Times-Virginian
WORSHIP

St. Anne's plans event

St. Anne's Episcopal Church on Oakleigh Avenue will host its first annual bar-b-que dinner and family entertainment night on Saturday, Sept. 8 beginning at 4 p.m.

The menu will consist of real pit-cooked barbeque, rolls, baked beans, slaw, beverage and home-baked pies and cakes all for just $3 per dinner.

An added attraction will be live music and an auction sale beginning at 7 p.m. Some real collectors items will be auctioned including hand-made wood, leather and pottery items from South America.

Tickets are available from members of St. Anne's and the public is invited to join in the fun and good eatin' on Sept. 8. Circle that date on your calendar now so you won't miss this event.

Homecoming slated

Homecoming Day at Springfield Baptist Church will be held Sunday, August 19.

Morning service will be conducted by the Rev. Harrison Kelso. Music will be rendered by the Young Adult Choir. Dinner will be served after the morning services.

Afternoon services will begin at 2 p.m. The Rev. Darnell Maya will be the guest speaker and evangelist for the week.

Prayer services will begin each evening at 7:30 p.m. and revival services will begin at 8:00 p.m. Various choirs will render music and songs.

Come and enjoy a week of Christian fellowship.

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Interest in horse business on increase

The Virginia Horse Breeder Incentive Program created to stimulate private sector investment is helping to increase interest in the horse business according to Jim Sharp, tobacco specialist.

Sharp pointed out the General Assembly established the program to encourage the production of quality horses in Virginia and to direct more of the mid-Atlantic horse breeding business into the state, as Virginia ranked the public sector business incentives available elsewhere.

Financial incentives are provided to the private sector, with the requirement that private monies be awarded to breeders producing quality horses in Virginia before public matching funds can be utilized.

The Virginia Horse Breeders Incentive Program began operation in July of 1982. Prior to this Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Program, only three horse breeding organizations in the state conducted industry funded breeder incentive programs.

Industry programs rose in number to seven during the first year of the program, ten during the second year, and eleven for 1984-85.

The financial value of the private programs increased by over fifty percent between the first and second years, with individual organizations showing increases as high as ninety percent.

Similar increases in the amount of public matching funds being utilized indicates that not only Virginia breeders, but also those in surrounding states, are investing in Virginia in order to take advantage of these private/public cooperative opportunities. Total value of the cooperative program rose from $68,807.79 during fiscal year 1982-83 to $130,107.91 for 1983-84, a fifty-five percent increase.

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